

## AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims replaces all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application.

1. (Currently Amended) A method of obtaining an image of a buried structure in an object comprising:  
providing a camera for imaging visual and infrared-images;  
providing a bounded infrared light source;  
partly irradiating said object by said bounded infrared light source;  
~~imaging a non-irradiated area of said object, by said camera, that is not irradiated by said bounded infrared light source to create an image of said buried structure; and~~  
combining said image of said buried structure ~~image~~ with a visual image of said object.
2. (Currently Amended) A method according to claim 1 wherein ~~said~~ irradiation of said object, ~~during the partly irradiating step,~~ is varied in location over time so as to provide a full image by subsequently combining ~~of~~ partial images rendered during multiple iterations of the imaging step.
3. (Currently Amended) A method according to claim 1-~~or 2~~, wherein said image of said buried structure is obtained by scanning a light beam over said object.
4. (Currently Amended) A method according to claim 1-~~or 2~~, wherein said image of said buried structure is obtained by subsequently irradiating said object ~~by~~ in predetermined patterns.
5. (Currently Amended) A method according to claim 4, wherein said partial image is obtained by alternately irradiating said object by ~~said~~ predetermined patterns are complementary patterns.
6. (Currently Amended) A method according to claim 4-~~or 5~~, wherein said predetermined patterns arecomprise any one or more of the following: matrix-patterns, line patterns, dot patterns or concentric patterns.

7. (Currently Amended) A method according to ~~any of claims 4-6~~claim 4, wherein said object is partly irradiated only at predetermined positions that are spaced apart.

8. (Currently Amended) A method according to ~~any of claims 1-7~~claim 1, wherein said ~~image is obtained by camera~~ is a CMOS-camera.

9. (Currently Amended) A method according to ~~any of the preceding claims~~claim 1, further comprising:

bounded infrared light source with a visual light source;  
providing a first edge analysis of ~~said an~~ infrared image;  
providing a second edge analysis of ~~said a~~ visual image;  
comparing said first and second edge analysis; and  
discarding edges in said infrared image that are also detected in said ~~second~~visual image.

10. (Currently Amended) A method according to claim 9 further comprising the step of correcting said first infrared image to discard saturated image areas.

11. (Currently Amended) A method according to ~~any of the preceding claims~~claim 1, wherein said ~~image~~image of said buried structure and ~~visual image~~ are provided stereoscopically.

12. (Currently Amended) A method according to ~~any of the preceding claims 9-10~~claim 9, wherein said ~~first~~infrared image is spectrally analysed~~analyzed~~, and wherein said spectral analysis is projected into said ~~second~~visual image.

13. (Currently Amended) A method according to claim 12, wherein said spectral analysis comprises a pulsatility analysis and/or a ~~hart~~heart beat frequency analysis and/or respiratory frequency analysis.

14. (Currently Amended) A method of enhancing imaging of a buried ~~structure~~structure in an object, comprising:

providing a first light source for providing first light of a wavelength that images said buried structure;

providing a second light, aligned with said first light, of a wavelength that visually

images said object, ~~aligned with said first light source;~~  
obtaining a first image by irradiating said object with said first light;  
providing an edge analysis of said first image ~~in order to detect the edges of said~~  
~~buried structure;~~  
obtaining a second image by irradiating said object with said second light;  
providing an edge analysis ~~to detect edges in~~ of said second image;  
comparing edges detected during the edge analysis of said second image with edges  
detected during the edge analysis of said first image;  
discarding edges detected in said first image that are also detected present in the edges  
detected in said second image to render a modified first image; and  
combining said modified first image and second ~~images for defining image~~ to depict  
edges of said buried structure in said visual second image.

15. (Currently Amended) A method according to claim 14, further comprising  
correcting said first image ~~to discard~~ by discarding saturated image areas.

16. (Currently Amended) System for obtaining an image of a buried  
~~structures~~structure in an object, comprising:

a bounded light source for irradiating said object by light for providing a first image  
of said buried structure and for providing a second visual image of said object;  
a camera device for obtaining said image and second visual imagesimage; and  
a processing device arranged ~~to~~ for:

providing a gradient analysis of said first image ~~in order to detect the edges of~~  
said buried structure; ~~and for~~

providing a gradient analysis ~~of~~ to detect edges in said second image;

comparing edges detected during the gradient analysis of said second image  
with edges detected during the gradient analysis of said first image;

discarding edges detected in said first image that are also present in the edges  
detected in said second image to render a modified first image; and

combining said modified first image and second ~~images for defining image to~~  
depict edges of said buried structure in said ~~visual~~second image.

17. (Currently Amended) A system according to claim 16 further comprising:  
a puncture tool for puncturing human tissue; and  
an IR light source provided in said puncture tool

18. (Currently Amended) A system according to claim 17, wherein said IR light  
is aligned along said puncture tool.

19. (Currently Amended) A system according to claim 17 or 18, wherein said IR  
light source is provided in a tip of said puncture tool.

20. (Currently Amended) A system according to ~~any of claims 17-19~~claim 17,  
wherein said puncture tool is provided with an IR radiating coating.

21. (Currently Amended) A system according to ~~any of claims 17-20~~claim 17,  
wherein the IR light source and the bounded light source are alternately activated.

22. (Currently Amended) A puncture tool for puncturing human tissue; and  
including an IR light source provided in said puncture tool.